REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2 and 3 have been combined and the informality in claim 1 has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. As a result, it respectfully submitted that the claim objection is no longer pertinent and the rejection based on the Mikeska reference has been rendered moot.

By virtue of the foregoing amendment, prior claim 3 has effectively been made the independent claim in this case. Since claims 8, 13, 15 and 17 as rejected did not include the recitations of claim 3, it is apparent that the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 Kodama in view Nomura has also been rendered moot.

In the current Office Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Kodama, and one additional claim (number 4) which is dependant on claim 3 and other claims not dependent on claim 3 were rejected on the same basis. Since Kodama does not teach or suggest the method of previous claim 3 (now claim 1), it is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Ceramics generally undergo a large dimensional change, i.e. shrinkage, when they are sintered. This can cause major problems. To address the problem, a number of methods have been proposed. In the so-called non-shrinkage method, shrinkage of the green ceramic laminate in the plane (X-Y) direction is largely restrained while the laminate shrinks in the lamination (Z) direction during firing. Nevertheless, if the green laminate being fired has a cavity, the surface of the resulting laminate will be greatly warped or distorted as a result of the firing. In the present invention, that problem is addressed by providing a sintered plate having an area smaller than the area the primary face of the green

layer for the substrate on which the plate is arranged and disposing the sintered plate in the cavity formed in the green layer. As a result, warping or distortion of the surface of the laminate during firing can be sufficiently retarded. This invention is not taught or suggested by the Kodama reference.

The Kodama patent relates to a method of producing a multilayer ceramic embody, having improved dimensional accuracy, particularly on its surface. This result is achieved by providing a sintered body in which the whole or a part of a side face has a curved surface without causing shrinkage in the surface layer by sintering. This is attained not only by controlling the pressures applied, but also by controlling at optimum level of the frictional or constraining force between a material which applies a pressure and a material to which pressure is applied (column 2, ll. 53-60). Among the various embodiments disclosed, one includes embedding a substrate which has been fired as an interior layer of the composite body. The reference also discloses forming multilayer bodies having via holes and also in one example, it shows forming holes in some of the laminate plies so that a capacitor can fit within those holes and be via wired to the wirings of the green sheets. However, there is no teaching or suggesting in this reference of providing a multilayer body which includes a plurality of green layers, a green layer having a cavity and a sintered plate of a fired first ceramic functional material disposed in that cavity. It also does not teach or suggest that the sintered plate have an area smaller than the area of the primary face of the green layer for the substrate on which the plate is arranged. Clearly, therefore, a rejection based on this 35 U.S.C. §102 is untenable and a rejection based on §103 is not appropriate.

In light of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and a withdrawal of all rejections is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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